

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01356 01 OF 02 101804Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15
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-----101815Z 109642 /46

P 101644Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2123
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1356

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER, NATO
SUBJECT: US PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT TO NAMSA

REF: USNATO 0633

1. ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES HAVE TO DATE RESPONDED TO US REQUEST REPORTED IN PARA 1 REFERENCE MESSAGE FOR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO REIMBURSEMENT OF SALARY AND EMOLUMENTS OF NAMSO CHAIRMAN. NO RESPONSES HAVE BEEN RECIEVED TO DATE TO FOLLOW-UP LETTERS OF 24 FEBRUARY TO COUNTRIES THAT HAD NOT RESPONDED TO JANUARY LETTER, REQUESTING THAT THE MATTER BE GIVEN URGENT ATTENTION AND AN EARLY RESPONSE PROVIDED. OF THOSE COUNTRIES RESPONDING, ONLY TURKEY HAS GIVEN ITS AGREEMENT. THE BELGIAN RESPONSE READS, IN PERTINENT PART, AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT: AS YOU KNOW, THE INTERNAL RULES OF PROCEDURES OF THE BOD (NM(64)BOD/53) DEFINE IN CHAPTER TWO THE STATUTE OF THE CHAIRMAN; IN PARTICULAR, PARA D,1, PRESCRIBES THAT HIS SALARY HAS TO BE SUPPORTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT, WHEREAS THE OTHER EXPENSES, RELATED TO HIS OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS, ARE SUPPORTED BY NAMSO.

THIS DISPOSITION CAN OF COURSE BE AMENDED BY THE BOARD, BUT IN THAT CASE, IS IT NOT TO BE FEARED THAT THE FUNCTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NATO 01356 01 OF 02 101804Z

CHAIRMAN BE CONSIDERED AS ANY OTHER HIGH-RANKING NATO FUNCTION, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, SUBMITTED TO THE SAME PROCEDURE AS REGARDS THE INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATURES, THE DESIGNATION, THE ROTATION BETWEEN NATIONS, ETC..
ON THE OTHER HAD, ONE CAN BE SURPRISED BY THE LATE REACTION OF THE US GOVERNMENT; INDEED, WHEN THE CANDIDATURE OF COLONEL BROWNING WAS PRESENTED, SOME TEN YEARS AGO, NO ONE COULD IGNORE THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE BOARD'S INTERNAL RULES, NOR ITS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS..END TEXT.

THE DUTCH RESPONSE READ IN PERTINENT PART:

BEGIN TEXT: IF WE INCLUDE THE POSITION OF OUR CHAIRMAN AS A
NAMSO POSITION (A6,A7 OR PERHAPS EVEN UNCLASSIFIED?) IN OUR
BUDGET, THE AMOUNT IN QUESTION WOULD BE REIMBURSED IN TOTAL TO
THE US, WHICH THEN WOULD HAVE TO PAY OUT IN ITS TURN THE SAME
AMOUNT TO COLONEL BROWNING HIMSELF.

THE EFFECT WOULD BE THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO FUND FROM COMMON
FUNDS IN THE CASE OF NAMSO (AS THE ONLY NLPO) A POSITION OF A
CHAIRMAN, NOT BECAUSE A CASE IS MADE THAT IT WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE TO DO SO, BUT BECUASE THAT PARTICULAR CHAIRMAN IS
OF US NATIONALITY.

UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, I AM AFRAID THAT I CAN NOT GIVE
MY AGREEMENT, EVEN IN PRNIPLE, TO THIS PROPOSAL. END TEXT.

THE NORWEGIAN RESPONSE, SOMEWHAT MORE HELPFUL IN TONE,
STATES, IN PERTINENT PART:

BEGIN TEXT: ONE MUST HAVE IN MID THAT SOME NATIONS MAY BE
WILLING TO PAY THE SALARY, ET., FOR THE BOD CHAIRMAN UNDER
CERTAIN CONDITIONS (E.G. NADGE POLICY BOARD AND MILITARY
BUDGET COMMITTEE). THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY NOW WOULD BE THAT
US CONTINUES TO PAY THE SALARY AND EMOLUMENTS INQUESTION UNTIL
MR. BROWNING'S TERM EXPIRES. AFTER THAT ONE CAN CONSIDER THE
WHOLE MATTER IN THE BOD. EN TEXT.

3. COLONEL BROWNING ANNOUNCED ON 1 MARCH THAT HE WILL NOT
STAND FOR REELECTION AS NAMSO CHAIRMAN BEYOND THE TERM EXPIRING
1 APRIL 1978, AND HAS ASKED THAT COUNTRIES INDICATE AT THE JULY
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NATO 01356 01 OF 02 101804Z

BOARD MEETING WHETHER THEY PLAY TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION FOR HIS
REPLACEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NATO 01356 02 OF 02 101741Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 1356

COMMENT: IT NOW APPEARS PROBABLE IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING
RESPONSES THAT NO AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED, PRIOR TO- OR EVEN
DURING - THE JULY BOARD MEETING, TO REIMBURSEMENT OF THE
CHAIRMAN'S SALARY AND EMOLUMENTS. IN VIEW OF THAT FACT AND OF

BROWNING'S ACTIN, WE WILL BE EXPECTED TO NOTIFY THE BOARD IN JULY WHETHER OR NOT WE INTEND TO SUBMIT A CANDIDATE BY THE DEADLINE (PRESUMABLY SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER), WIHOUT HAVING A POSITIVE DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF REMBURSEMENT. IF WE INDICATE THAT WE CANNOT NOMINATE WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT TO REIMBRUSE, AND IN THE LIKELY CASE THAT THERE WILL BE NO AGREEMENT IN JULY IN FAVOR OF REIMBURSEMENT, OTHER NATIONS WILL PROBABLY FEEL FREE- IN THE ABSENCE OF A US CANDIDATE - TO COMPETE FOR THE POSITIONWITHOUT REMIBURSEMENT, AS IS USUAL IN OTHER NATO PRODCUTIONS AND LOGISTICS ORGANIZATINS. UNDER THIS ASSUMPTION, THERE WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY US INTEREST SERVED BY PURSUING OUR PRESENT REQUEST. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE SHOULD AGREE TO NOMINATE A US CANDIDATE, NOTWITHSTANDING LACK OF AGREEMENT TO REMBURSE, WE WOULD EXPECT OTHER NATIONS TO BE MORE RELUCTANT TO COMPETE WITH THE US FOR THE POSITION. FYI. THIS COURSE OF ACTION NEED NOT PRECLUDE OUR TAKING OUR CHANCES ON A LATER DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON THE ISSUE OF REIMBURSEMENT. END FYI. OBVIOUSLY, THE BEST CHANCES FOR REPLACING BROWNING WITH A US CANDIDATE WOULD BE PROVIDED BY EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF OUR REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT, COUPLED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NATO 01356 02 OF 02 101741Z

AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR INTENTION TO SUBMIT A CANDIDATE AS HIS REPLACEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THISMAY BE DIFFICULT UNDER CURRENT WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON REVIEW THE POLICY ON THIS ISSUE IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS OUTLINED AND PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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